

CONFIDENTIAL

MBK-0025

8 September 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report - Bangkok Bureau - August 1981

I. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. From a usually quiescent corner of bureau coverage came the surprise of the month when Burmese President Ne Win announced at the Fourth Congress of the Burmese Socialist Program Party Central Committee that he was planning to retire from the presidency in the immediate future, adding that he also wanted to relinquish his party position. The bureau responded in a timely and comprehensive fashion, filing three advance fyi's and the text of the 52-minute speech within 4 hours of broadcast.

2. Another surprise was that not only did the off-and-on again meeting of the three Cambodian resistance leaders--Son San, Khieu Samphan and Norodom Sihanouk--actually take place in Singapore late in the month, but that the three antagonists agreed to work toward a coalition and set up a committee to resolve differences. The jockeying for position of the three leaders prior to the meeting, as well as the meeting itself, prompted numerous calls between bureau editors and local embassy consumers.

B. Lateral Services

1. As the bureau's contribution to the Mission's effort in coping with more than a dozen August visits by U.S. Congressional delegations, two transcribers were loaned to ICA for its use at local press conferences held by the visiting dignitaries. The request was made by Press Attache Dick Virden.

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II. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. Cambodian monitor [] resigned effective 31 August for personal reasons, thereby leaving the bureau again with one monitor below T/O in the hard-pressed Cambodian section. With Headquarters concurrence, the bureau moved quickly to alert both the embassy in Canberra and the consulate in Melbourne for assistance in its recruitment efforts. The bureau chief plans to TDY Australia in late September and early October to interview and test candidates and coordinate processing in order to bring a fourth Cambodian monitor on duty as soon as possible. Local recruitment efforts were in vain.

2. Also announcing her resignation during the month was contract secretary [] will depart Thailand in mid-September in the accompaniment of her husband, who is being transferred laterally.

3. A well-attended luncheon was held on 5 August in honor of departing staffers [] and to welcome formally the bureau's new Indian monitor, []

4. The Thai DCI hosted a luncheon on 14 August to thank departing bureau engineer [] and to greet his replacement, [] Other bureau employees invited to the luncheon were the chief and deputy chief and bureau assistant engineer []

B. Other

1. In preparation of the annual safety inspection by a Headquarters safety officer in September, the bureau conducted fire extinguisher demonstrations on 5 and 7 August for all bureau personnel. A thorough inspection of the bureau premises was also made on 25 and 26 August by bureau safety officer [] Most recommendations forwarded to the bureau chief concerned improvements on the part of Shell House in the area of building safety. A prompt and positive response from Shell Building management was received and all improvements made within one week.

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2. On 7 August, the bureau was included for the first time in the Embassy's Security Radio Net. A two-way radio connects the bureau with the Marine Guards and other Mission components. The radio link is an enhancement of previous Mission E&E contact networks.

3. At the recommendation of C/B&F, the bureau closed its Treasury Imprest Fund on 17 August and replaced it with a revolving cash fund through the Embassy's Budget and Management Office. Bureau administrative assistant [redacted] were appointed 25X
Embassy sub-cashiers to handle the new revolving fund.

III. VISITS

A. From the Bureau:

1. Senior editor [redacted] and family departed PCS on 14 August. 25X
2. Bureau engineer [redacted] departed PCS on 28 August. 25X

B. To the Bureau:

1. Editor [redacted] arrived PCS on 9 August. 25X
2. Engineer [redacted] and family arrived PCS from 25X
Okinawa on 13 August.
3. FBIS personnel officer [redacted] visited the bureau 25-26 25X
August and met with most bureau personnel to brief them on foreign national
personnel management issues.

[redacted] 25X
Chief, Bangkok Bureau, FBIS

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Attachments:

Engineering
Production Report
Production Report by Language, Country & Source
Embassy Circuit Outage Report

Distribution:

C/Okinawa Bureau

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